

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KUALA 04216 050840Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /081 W
-----053357 050847Z /10

P R 050656Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7817
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 4216

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, MY, TH
SUBJECT: COMMENCEMENT OF JOINT MALAYSIAN/THAI ANTI-INSURGENCY
OPERATION IN THE BETONG SALIENT

1. ACCORDING TO JULY 5 PRESS REPORTS, MUCH-DISCUSSED JOINT THAI/MALAYSIAN ANTI-INSURGENCY OPERATION AGAINST COMMUNIST TERRORISTS (CTS)
IN BETONG SALIENT WAS LAUNCHED AT 0630 ON JULY 4. OPERATION CODE NAMED CAHAYA-BENA I (SACRED RAY ONE). MALAYSIAN TROOPS CROSSED INTO THAILAND NEAR KEROH.
JOINT COMMANDERS ARE MAJOR GENERAL MAHMOOD BIN SULAIMAN FOR MALAYSIA AND GENERAL YUTHASAK KLONGTRUIJROK FOR THAILAND. COMMANDERS DID NOT REVEAL ACTUAL NUMBER OF TROOPS INVOLVED, BUT PRESS REPORTS REFERRED TO THOUSANDS OF MALAYSIAN TROOPS. OBJECT IS FLUSHING OUT AN ESTIMATED 3,000 CTS IN BETONG SALIENT.

2. MALAYSIAN TROOPS INCLUDE ARMORED UNITS; MALAYSIAN ARTILLERY UNITS,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KUALA 04216 050840Z

AND SOME COMMANDOS WERE AIRLIFTED BY HELICOPTER TO UNDISCLOSED OPERATIONAL AREAS. IN SUPPORT OF GROUND OPERATIOXJYBM 30-MINUTE JOINT AIR STRIKE WAS CARRIED OUT SHORTLY AFTER OPERATION CAHAYA-BENA I BEGAN. MALAYSIAN TEBUAN JETS AND THAI BRONCO OV10 FIGHTERS WERE USED. ON JULY 4 MAHMOOD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT EARLY PROGRESS OF THE JOINT OPERATION. HE ADDED THAT MALAYSIA IS PREPARED TO COMMIT ADDITIONAL TROOPS IF

NECESSARY.

3. COMMENT: OPERATION CAHAYA-BENA I COMES AS NO SURPRISE AND HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WIDELY OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. NEVERTHELESS, IT REMAINS A SUBSTANTIVE EFFORT AGAINST LONG-ESTABLISHED CT STRONGHOLDS, AND IS AN INDICATION OF CONTINUING THAI/MALAYSIAN COOPERATION ON A SUBJECT WHICH HAS BEEN A SORE POINT BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES FOR SEVERAL YEARS. MOST LIKELY MANY CTS HAVE FLED THE AREA OR PREPARED BOOBY-TRAPPED DEFENSES IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS OPERATION. HOWEVER, IF OPERATION CAHAYA-BENA I DESTROYS LONG-ENTRENCHED CT CAMPS AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS AND DISRUPTS CT ABILITY TO OPERATE IN THE AREA EVEN FOR JUST A YEAR, IT CAN BE COUNTED A SUCCESS.
MILLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COUNTERINSURGENCY, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TERRORISTS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUALA04216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770237-0864
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770792/aaaadcw.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 18245171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1968700
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENCEMENT OF JOINT MALAYSIAN/THAI ANTI-INSURGENCY OPERATION IN THE BETONG SALIENT
TAGS: MOPS, MY, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18245171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009